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15 May 2018

**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL
CHANGE RESEARCH
Twenty-sixth meeting
Antigua, Guatemala, 20-21 June 2018
Agenda item 9**

Report of the Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC)

1. This document has been prepared by the Chair of the Science-Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC).

Background

2. The Conference of the Parties, at its 21st meeting (Montevideo, 2013), adopted Decision XXI/13, which states:

The CoP approved the establishment of an Advisory Committee on Science-Policy Liaison. The committee will provide advice to the CoP and the IAI Directorate on how to use and design science for policy and decision-making.

Membership

3. The current membership of the SPAC includes: Dr. Brigitte Baptiste, Dr. Walter Baethgen, Dr. Gilberto Cámara, Dr. Javier Gracia-Garza, Dr. Maria Netto, Dr. Evelia Rivera-Arriaga and Dr. James Rusak. In June 2018, two (2) SPAC members, Dr. Javier Gracia-Garza, nominated by the Parties, and Dr. James Rusak, nominated by the SPAC, will conclude their first term, both being eligible for re-election if nominated. In addition, two (2) SPAC members, Dr. Nicolas Lucas, nominated by the Directorate, with a tenure until June 2018,

and Dr. Yolanda Kakabadse, nominated by the SPAC and with a tenure until June 2019, have resigned.

4. The SPAC did not submit nominations.

Activities

5. Four teleconferences were held during the intersessional period: on 19 September, 11 December 2017, 9 February, 24 April 2018. A number of issues were discussed, including improvement of information exchange and communication between the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and the SPAC, advice on the launch of the Small Grants Call on Ecosystem Services and Adaptation for Human Well-Being (SGP-HW)¹, assistance and advice to the IAI Directorate on the organization of the CRN3 researchers meeting², which was held from 29 November to 1 December 2017, in Cancun, Mexico, advice on the organization of the 26th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and advice on fund-raising.
6. The call for the SGP-HW was announced on 1 March 2018 with input received from the SAC and the SPAC.
7. SPAC Members, Dr. Evelia Rivera Campeche, Mexico and Dr. Walter Baethgen, participated in the CRN3 Meeting. Dr. James Rusak is part of the SAFER: Sensing the Americas' freshwater ecosystem risk from climate change (CRN 3038).
8. The SPAC will meet in Antigua, Guatemala on 18 June 2018 together with the SAC, prior to CoP-26 and EC-45 and EC-46 meetings to evaluate the SGP-HW pre-proposals and to discuss new areas of possible research on global change, particularly in light of the upcoming proposals on CRN4. Discussions will also center on the enhancement of activities in the Central America and Caribbean region, the role of researchers in the policy-making process, the role of the SPAC and enhancement of coordination and collaboration, among other matters.

Recommendation

9. The Conference of the Parties is invited to take note of this document.

¹ IAI/COP/26/Info.6: <http://www.iai.int/wp-content/uploads/info6-cop26-e.pdf>

² IAI/COP/26/Info.12: <http://www.iai.int/wp-content/uploads/info12-cop26-e.pdf>